

Saints Peter & Paul                      St. Mary's (Dormition of the Mother of God)  
 Byzantine Catholic Church            Byzantine Catholic Church  
 107 South Fourth Street                131 South Morris Street  
 Minersville, PA 17954                    Saint Clair, PA 17970

Parish Office: (570) 544-2074

Website: [www.sspeterandpaulminersville.com](http://www.sspeterandpaulminersville.com)

Email: [tvrgjn@outlook.com](mailto:tvrgjn@outlook.com)

Served by: Very Reverend Gregory J. Noga, Pastor

SS. Peter & Paul Cantor: Mr. Paul Konkus            St. Mary Cantor: Dr. Peter Yasenchak

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**CONFESSIONS:** SS. Peter & Paul: Saturday 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. and Sunday 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. prior to  
 Divine Liturgy and Daily prior to Divine Liturgy

St. Mary's: Saturday 3:00 PM

**SICK CALLS:** As scheduled, or anytime in case of an emergency. If anyone is homebound or  
 hospitalized, please call the rectory (544-2074)

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### Conventional Wisdom and the Lord's

Listen, friend, it's a dog-eat-dog world out there.  
 You've got to do it to them before they do it to you.

*But it cannot be like that with you ...*

Always remember the golden rule: those who have  
 the gold, make the rules.

*But it cannot be like that with you ...*

Remember: Never get mad. Get even.

*But it cannot be like that with you ...*

Take my advice, kid – Don't make waves. You've  
 got to go along to get along. Keep your eyes open  
 and your mouth shut.

*But it cannot be like that with you ...*

Charity is fine, but business is business. Always,  
 always, always buy low and sell high.

*But it cannot be like that with you ...*

The drug users and the city scum – they deserve  
 what happens to them. We work hard for what  
 we've got – nobody is doing us any favors. Let  
 them do the same. It can be done. Hey, look: You  
 got to take care of your own.

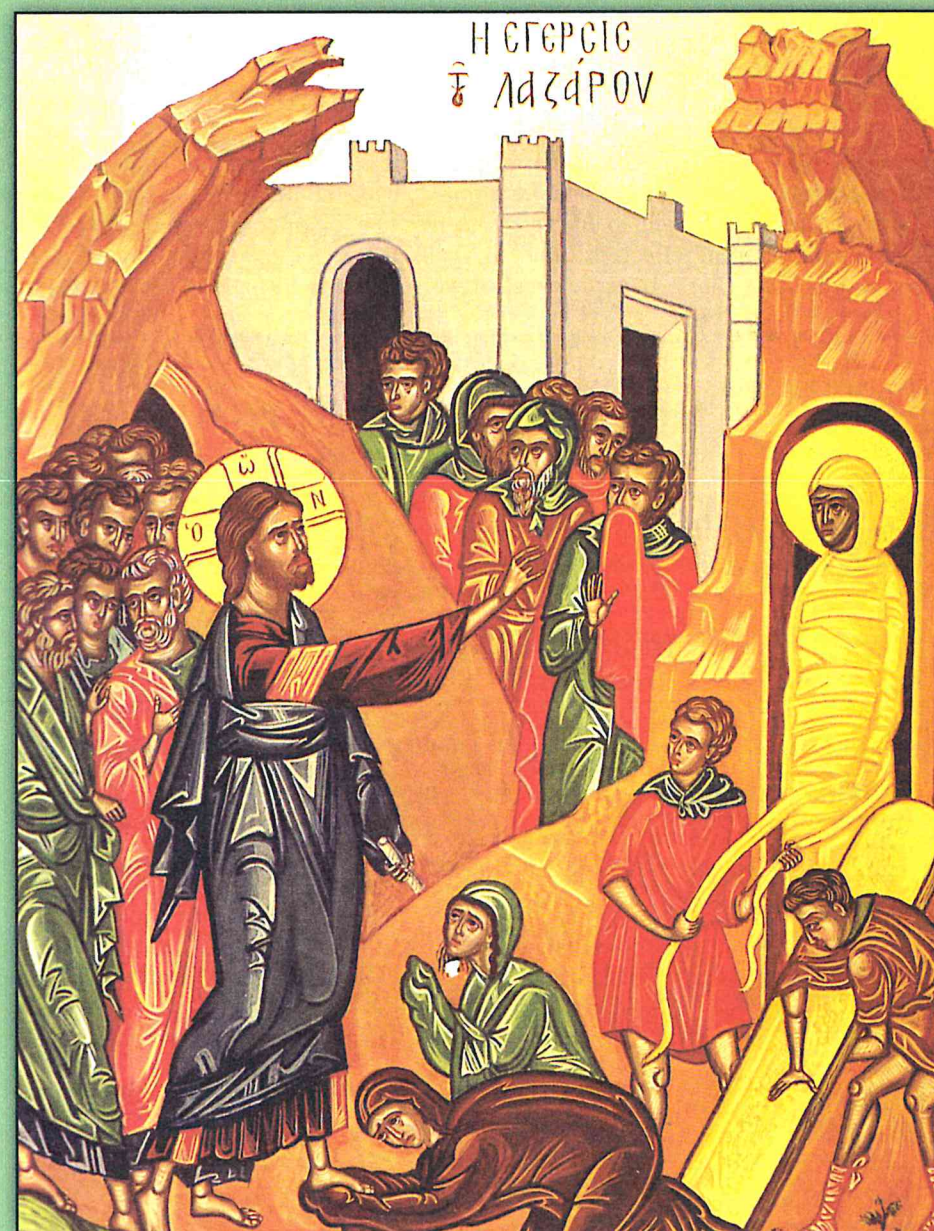
*But it cannot be like that with you ...*

Jesus' admonition is almost a pleading: If you really  
 understand Me and what I am about, if you re-  
 ally want to be My disciple, if you really seek to be  
 worthy of My name, then you must see the world  
 differently and respond to its challenges with a  
 very different set of values. The world may try to  
 justify vengeance rather than forgiveness, to glorify  
 self-preservation over selflessness, to insist on pre-  
 serving the system and convention for the sake of  
 compassion and justice.

*But it cannot be like that with you.*

For publications on Eastern spirituality, visit  
[www.ecpubs.com](http://www.ecpubs.com)

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST SUNDAY OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT



Icon of Raising Lazarus from the Dead



**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast  
Tone 1**

Welcome to the parish communities of SS. Peter and Paul and St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Churches of Minersville and Saint Clare, Pennsylvania. We greet and welcome you to our Church. Our Church is a holy place. Our Church is where we get together in Jesus' Name. It is holy because we come here to worship, to be nourished in faith through Sacred Scripture and preaching, to open our hearts and minds to celebrate the mystery of salvation in Jesus Christ and to dedicate ourselves to a life of holiness and service to the Lord and others. The church building itself reflects this faith and calls us to enter into communion with God. We invite you to share our faith in Jesus Christ, to experience our worship and to live a life dedicated to the service of God and one another in Jesus' Name.

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**March 17 – March 16, AD2024  
St. Mary of Egypt**

Vigil of Sunday at St. Mary		
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	+ <b>Michael Kovich</b> req. by Marie Wanchick*
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	<b>Health and Blessing of the Parishioners*</b> (livestreamed)
Monday	9:00 a.m.	No Service Today*
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	No Service Today*
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	<b>Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts*</b> + <b>Rose Marie Minder</b> req. by Ron & Dolores Kramer
Thursday	9:00 a.m.	6 <sup>th</sup> Canonical Hour
Friday	12:00 p.m.	<b>Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts*</b>
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	+Joan, +John & Carol Reichard Luchanin req. by the Luchanin Family*
		<b>Vigil of the Entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday)</b>
Saturday Vigil	4:00 p.m.	+ <b>John Lohin</b> req. by <b>Elaine Kunze*</b> Entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	<b>Health &amp; Blessing of the Parishioners*</b>

\*St. Mary  
\*SS Peter & Paul

**Epistle Readers:** 3/3 – Beverly Kostishak; 3/10 – Gail Burgess; 3/17 – Marie Wanchick; 3/24 – Paulette Murphy; 3/25 – Judy Kostura; 3/26 – Ellen Sinkovich; 3/27 – Laura Mitchell; 3/28 – Paulette Murphy; 3/29 – Dolores Kramer; 3/30 – Marie Wanchick; 3/31 – Laura Mitchell.

**Candle Offering:**

**Breakfast with Father**

**Today the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Great Fast the Divine Liturgy will be followed by Lenten Vespers, then Bible study with a light lunch in the church dining hall.**

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The Pussy Willows are blooming and ready for cutting. If you have access to any, kindly bring them to both of our churches.

**Great and Holy Week Services:**

Holy Monday:	7:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy for the Annunciation of the Theotokos*
Holy Wednesday:	7:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy*
Holy Thursday:	7:00 p.m. Vespers w/Liturgy of St. Basil*
Good Friday:	3:00 p.m. Vespers w/burial of the Shroud* 7:00 p.m. Vespers w/Procession and Burial of Shroud*
Holy Saturday:	12:00 p.m. Liturgy of St. Basil* 7:00 p.m. Resurrection Matins w/Divine Liturgy*
Pascha:	8:00 a.m. Matins of Resurrection w/Divine Liturgy*

**Blessing of Paschal Foods: Following the Paschal Divine Liturgies only.**



## GRACE

Those who enter the Church of Christ enter the kingdom of grace and they are invited to *come boldly into the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need* Hebrews 4: 16.

Grace, in God's revelation to us in Sacred Scripture has a variety of meanings and insights to offer. Essentially, however, it is taken for the free and eternal love and favor of God in the Holy Trinity, which is the spring and source of all the benefits which man receives from Him. *"But if the choice is by the grace of God, it is not because of their works, otherwise grace would not be grace* Romans 11: 6; *God saved us and called us to a holy life, not because of any merit of ours, but according to his own design, the grace held out to us in Christ Jesus before the world began, but now made manifest through the appearance of our Saviour* 2 Timothy 1: 9, 10.

This free and unmerited love of God is the original motivation in our salvation, and has no cause above it to excite or draw it forth, but merely arises from the will of God. It was this mercy or love of God that expresses itself in man's redemption. *God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him may not die, but have eternal life* John 3: 16.

At times it signifies in general the mercy of God; *God is the God of all grace* 1

Peter 5: 10. In this, its broadest meaning, grace is God's good will to man of worthy life in all ages of humanity, and particularly to the righteous souls of the Old Covenant such as Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, the Prophet Moses and the myriad later prophets.

In particularly precise meaning, the concept of grace refers to a New Testament understanding and comprehension. First, by the grace of God, the grace of Christ is to be understood the whole economy of our salvation, performed by the coming of the Son of God to earth, by His earthly life, His death on the Cross, His Resurrection, and His Ascension into heaven. *For by grace are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast* Ephesians 2: 8, 9. Secondly, grace is the name applied to the gifts of the Holy Spirit which have been imparted to the Church of Christ for the sanctification of its communicants, for their spiritual growth and for the attainment by them of the kingdom of heaven.

In this second New Testament meaning of the word, grace is power descending from on high, the very power of God inherent in the Body of Christ, His Church, the vehicle of salvation, which gives birth, imparts life, perfects and brings the believing and virtuous Christian to the appropriation of the salvation which has been made available by the Lord Jesus Christ.

He is *Revealed*  
by many Names...



*"...and His name shall be called..."* Isaiah 9:6.

The Holy Name of our Lord, God and Saviour was revealed by the angelic visitor. Throughout salvation history, He is referred to in a variety of ways, each of which make known more and more of the enduring love of our Heavenly Father for each of us.

### *King of the Jews*

*"And Pilate asked him, are you the king of the Jews? And he answering said to him, 'You have said it'"* Mark 15: 2.

What a title for our Lord to put His seal on at a time when the Jews were in abject subjection to the Romans and He himself their prisoner before a judge. But reality is that He is King of the Jews, yes, even more than that, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. The imperial Roman who metes out justice in a pagan way will at one time stand before this Jesus, this King of Kings to be fully examined and judged himself. Those faithful Jews who recognize the grace of God will one day proclaim Him their own King and more than that, their Messiah and Saviour. As for us? Let us give Him His rightful place as our King, as our ruler in this life. This points out how we can serve Him and accord Him a rightful place in our lives. Perhaps in some definite prayer, perhaps in exemplary example for the Jewish people with whom we interact, some testimony to them of the joy we know in being His faithful disciples, knowing, loving and serving Him. Let us in prayer call upon the Lord to remember His ancient people whose name we now share as His followers, as His Chosen People, and all else who seek to make His truth known in the world.



## WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

*In you, O Mother Mary, the faithful divine likeness shone forth, for by taking up the cross, you followed Christ. You gave us an example to be not concerned with the flesh, but to be diligent over the eternal things of the spirit. Therefore, O Venerable Mary, you now rejoice with the angels Troparion, St. Mary of Egypt.*

*Once filled with all kinds of vices, today, through repentance, she appears as the bride of Christ. Leading an angelic life, she crushes the devil with the help of the cross. Therefore, O venerable Mary, you now rejoice with the angels Kontakion, St. Mary of Egypt.*

*O Christ God, You confirmed the resurrection of all before the time of Your passion by raising Lazarus from the dead; therefore we, as the children of Israel, carry the symbols of victory and cry out to You, the Conqueror of death: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord" Troparion, Lazarus Saturday.*

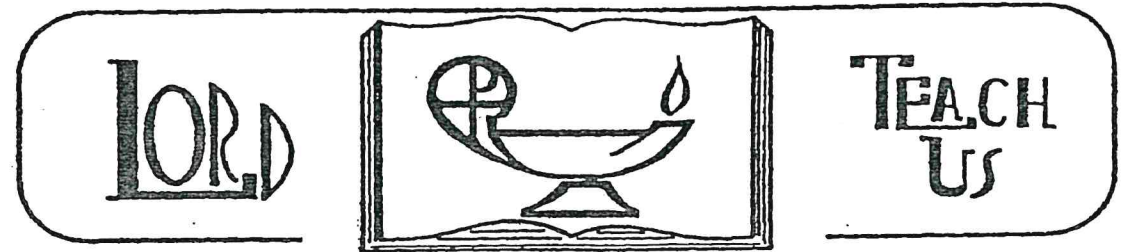
*Christ, the Joy of all, the Truth, the Light, the Life, and the Resurrection of the world appeared to those on earth. Because of His goodness, He became also the image of Resurrection, granting divine forgiveness to all Kontakion, Lazarus Saturday.*

*The Lord is my Light and my Salvation; Whom shall I fear? Prokimenon, Lazarus Saturday.*

*Let us gloriously honor the pure Mother of God. She bore the divine Fire and was not consumed. With ceaseless praise, let us extol her Hymn instead of "It is truly proper...", Lazarus Saturday.*

*Out of the mouths of babes and infants, You have fashioned praise. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Communion hymn, Lazarus Saturday.*

*All you who have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia! Hymn Instead of "Holy God", Lazarus Saturday.*



### Freely Bestowed Grace

*The curse of the Lord is on the house of the wicked; but the dwelling of the just he blesses; when he is dealing with the arrogant, he is stern, but to the humble he shows kindness Proverbs 3: 33, 34.*

*Of his fullness we have all received, grace for grace. For while the law was given through Moses, enduring grace comes only through Jesus Christ John 1: 16, 17.*

*Through whom we received grace and apostleship, that we might spread his name and bring to obedient faith all the gentiles, among whom are you who have been called to belong to Jesus Christ Romans 1: 5, 6.*

*All men have sinned and are deprived of the glory of God. All men are now undeservedly justified through the grace of redemption wrought in Christ Jesus Romans 3: 23, 24.*

*Hence, all depends on faith; everything is grace Romans 4: 16.*

*Through him we have gained access by faith to the grace in which we now stand and we boast of our hope for the glory of God Romans 5: 2.*

*The law came in order to increase offenses, but despite the increase of sin, grace has far surpassed it, so that, as sin reigned through death, grace may reign by way of justice leading to eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord Romans 5: 20, 21.*

*It is in Christ and through his grace that we have been redeemed and our sins forgiven, so immeasurably generous is God's grace to us Ephesians 1: 7.*